

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Newsletter



Edition 12 – 1st December 2023

School News

...And just like that we are already into December! It has been a very cold week here and it has been great to see the children wrapping up in their hats and gloves to keep warm!

I have been very lucky to be able to go in and see the children rehearsing for their nativities and carol concerts – everyone is in for a real treat! The children have been working hard at speaking with volume, projecting their voices and using expression. It is amazing to see their confidence growing each time. On Wednesday the Police Cadets ventured into the village for their social action project – to reduce the speed of cars passing through. They went with Miss Wakeford and the Police/PCSOs to learn how to use a speed trap.

Finally, we ended the week with Break the Rules day. I particularly enjoyed coming in wearing comfy clothes and I had some fabulous looks and comments about my new hair style! I didn't even come close to some of the amazing funky hairstyles that were on display today though. A fantastic effort from everyone with supporting FORS – well done!

I look forward to seeing many of you on Saturday. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Smurthwaite
Head of School

Events and Dates

Monday 30th October	Start of Term 2
Saturday 2nd December	Village Christmas Fete – Rusthall children singing
Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th December	KS1 Nativity
Monday 11th December	KS2 Carol Concert @ School
Tuesday 12th December	Elfridges Inspire Academy Movement Trust Carol Concert (evening including Rusthall)
Wednesday 13th December	Whole school trip to the Panto!
Thursday 14th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 15th December	END OF TERM



Woodland Trust Trees

Rusthall St Pauls CE Primary School was recently successful with the application for free trees for schools, which was organised by our fabulous forest school teacher Mrs Mackintosh.

We had 30 saplings arrive including Hazel and hawthorn, dog rose, crab apple and dogwood. At lunchtime on Thursday Mr Kilby (Facilities and Operations Manager) and Mrs Mackintosh chose some of the children on the playground to help plant them.

Currently, they are still very small but in about 6 months, we should see some growth. They are planted along the fence line just behind the bike shelter – take a look next time you walk past!

FORS CHRISTMAS CAKE SALE

Wednesday 6th December after school.

We will need donations of festive cakes and bakes. Please bring your donations to school in the morning and put on the table in the playground.

Thank you for the FORS team 😊



The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from child across the England on what they think is important! In the Lead up to the General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to make sure the Government hears young people's voices.

Please click [here](#) for further information.

The survey is open until **15th December 2023** and can be completed by clicking [here](#).



Christmas Cards

On the first day back after half term, all children designed their own piece of Christmas artwork that can be used for Christmas cards and other gifts.

Your child has come home with a copy of your child's artwork and their own reference number and pin for you to be able to order cards and gifts with your child's artwork on. THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MIDNIGHT 24TH NOVEMBER, FOR FREE DELIVERY TO SCHOOL. (Any orders after this time will incur a home delivery charge of £8.95).

All orders generate commission for the school so you are helping to raise money for the school and spread festive cheer! 🎄

Thank you for your support!

The FORS team 😊

PE Kit

I have written previously about school uniform expectations. PE kit continues to be a problem, especially in KS2. PE days are not home clothes days and children need to be in school clothes. Due to the number of children not in school PE kit, the school are looking to invest in some kit so that children can borrow this on the day. If you are having trouble buying uniform, please let the school know and we are happy to support families with this.

Lost Property

We have a large number of items in the lost property room. We will sort through and return any items that are named. If your child is missing any items please do check there. If there are still unclaimed items in the lost property room by **Friday 15th December** then we will donate them to the PTA for a future pre-loved sale.



#EasyFundraising



Now that we are well into the Christmas shopping season we are asking each and everyone of you, who shops online, to do so via EASYFUNDRAISING. This costs you absolutely nothing! You simply download the app. You can also set up your phone so you get donation reminders. Lots of our supporters have left

the school now so we are particularly keen on those who have just joined us or those with younger children. PLEASE get on board with this. We are soon going to be spending a HUGE amount of money on replacing the playground equipment so everyone can help if you shop online.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/rusthallstpauls/?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=gs-wa1

Or simply scan the QR code above 🖱️

Thank you and happy shopping!

The FORS team 😊

Kent Early Help Support Services

Reducing Parental Conflict Training and Resources

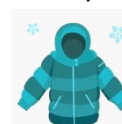
Frequent, intense, and poorly resolved conflict between parents, whether intact or co-parenting, can significantly affect the long-term mental health, educational attainment and long term outcomes of children.

If you would like to be able to access this support or resources, parents need to visit

<https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents> to create an account to access the courses.

Coats and Suitable Clothing

As the weather is becoming more unpredictable and colder we would like to remind parents to ensure your child is sent in with a coat. Please make sure these are clearly labelled with your child's name. Children need to be suitably clothed and encouraged to wear jumpers as well as outer layers.



CELEBRATIONS!

Head Pupils: Flora and Jacob

Rainbow Awards RED: Sonny T, Kaiden, Charlie B, Tommy, Yasin, Aidan, Fraser, Noah, Hayley, Nicola, Toby P, Alfie C, Joshua F, Sonnie and Flora

Reading Stars: York Class – , Winchester Class – Betsy, Exeter Class – Martha, Durham Class – Alfie C, Rochester Class – Harley

Golden Book: York Class –and , Winchester Class –Elliot and Emma, Exeter Class – Henry and Daisy P, Rochester – Harley and Jacob, Durham – Toby W and Hayley

House point winners: St Georges

Weekly Attendance winners: Rochester



Forest School

It was the coldest session we've had so far this winter. The children did very well considering. We started the session with a game about willow seeds floating down a river. This warmed us all up! They then listened carefully to the instructions and safety brief for using a folding saw and hammer a nail to make a wooden Rudolf. This was a popular activity which kept a lot of children busy.

During free play, they played on the slack line, hammock and swing (Mrs White also enjoyed her turn on the swing!). They also improved their den from last week and enjoyed their games of chase.

Other children enjoyed the books and animal cards and made a library for the woodland animals.

We finished with a hot squash before heading back to school.

Some of the year 4 children got some extra house points this week for helping carry all of the kit back from the woods.

York Class

Another busy week in York Class. On Friday 1st December we had a workshop from the team at The Amelia in Tunbridge Wells. The theme of the workshop was pastime toys. During the workshop we heard all about toys that have been played with by children in the past. We then had the opportunity for a hands on exploration. We thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity - a great way to finish our History Unit on finding out about the past and changes that have happened.



Reception have enjoyed drawing their favourite toys and using their phonics knowledge to create some labels. In Year 1 we have been writing instructions - applying our understanding of the features of instructions and using our phonics knowledge to write down our ideas.

ATTENDANCE

This Week: 83.45%
This Year: 92.9%

Winchester Class

Winchester have been busy rehearsing for next week's Nativity performances and have really worked on projecting their voices and knowing their cues for getting on and off stage. We are very proud of the perseverance and resilience they have shown.

During cricket this week the class were having a go at fielding skills thinking about how to work together to get the ball quickly and not allow the other team to get too many runs. Math's has seen the class continue to work on their addition and subtraction skills and

they have been learning how to exchange tens and ones to be able to do this. In English we have started some poetry and look forward to sharing this with you next week.



This Week: 90.91%
This Year: 93.71%



Exeter Class

This week Exeter Class have been enjoying carol concert practices with Year 5 and 6, and we are getting very excited about the performance. We have been working hard on our 12 times-table and our multiplication and division facts. We have also been learning about synonyms, and have been extending our vocabulary ready for our biography writing in English.

This Week: 92.86%
This Year: 92.31%

Durham

This week in Durham we have been consolidating our focus on letter writing, where the children have written a formal and persuasive letter in role as Alfie Summerfield to the Prime Minister at the time of WWI. Through this, they have been implementing all of the different writing skills we have been learning since the beginning of the term: passive voice, relative clauses, multi-clause sentences, semi-colons, colons, and rhetorical questions. The children have been very enthused by Alfie's story and journey. I've been so impressed with the empathy they have demonstrated to his character and how well they have stepped into his shoes. They have also been working extremely hard with their Carol Concert rehearsals and most of us know our words and songs off by heart!

This Week: 92.11%
This Year: 93.9%

Rochester

We have been thoroughly enjoying our weekly cricket lessons and this week we got to pull of our skills together in one rather enthusiastic game of caterpillar cricket. Over the past few weeks we have; learned how to bat and increased our success rate; started to master the skill of overarm bowling using the seesaw, windmill method; and rapidly improved our fielding skills. All through a range of games, fun and laughter. We



have also had to develop our resilience and perseverance. There has also been lots of moments where we have been supportive team mates and shown great sportsmanship whilst enjoying a bit of



competition. We are already looking forward to next week!

This Week: 93.0%
This Year: 95.04%